



**TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2010**

Michael Bowie, Chair District 2 2012
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010
Fern Larochele, Jr., At Large 2010
Roger Cote, At Large 2011
Mark Lunt, District 1 2012
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010
Lori Pomelow, At Large 2012

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. The Chairman, Michael Bowie, called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Bowie, Mason, Crafts, Larochele, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Ryan Leighton, Town Engineer; Jerry Kamke, Treatment Plant Manager; Budget Advisory Board Members, Donald Fellows, Richard Graham, Dorothy Fitzgerald; Ken Wells, Water Commissioner; and approximately ten citizens in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2010-66) Councilor Larochele, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to approve the Minutes of April 7, April 13, April 20, and the renewal Victualer's Licenses for Dairy Maid, Lisbon United Methodist Church, Railroad Restaurant & Pub, Riverside Dairy Bar, and T&A Diner. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES

STATE SENTIMENT FOR LISBON WRESTLING

Item moved to another agenda.

MMA LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr. Eldridge said the Maine Municipal Association seeks nominees to serve on the Legislative Policy Committee every year. You have a handout that describes what they do if anyone would like to serve. Councilor Bowie said I believe we have to have it submitted by June 3 so we have a little bit of time to think about it if you would like. If there is a Councilor who would like to serve on it, please let Steve know. Councilor Pomelow said who is our current representative? Mr. Eldridge said we don't have anybody. It's a good committee. There are around 70 people who participate; they are elected officials, and sometimes Town Managers, or appointees. You get to weigh in on a lot of the State Legislative issues that are coming before the State Legislature. MMA pools the Legislative Committee for ideas and Jeff Hermon, who is the representative, goes before the Legislature to lobby for whatever MMA's issues are. Councilor Bowie said so maybe we can think about this for a little bit and come back to it again at the next meeting.

UPLAND ROAD PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT

Mr. Leighton said in the most recent Sewer Department budget we budgeted \$80,000 to replace the Upland Road Pump Station that used to be called the Ridge Road Pump Station. The Station was originally installed in 1974. In 2003, we had a pump station evaluation done for all of our minor pump stations, as we classified them. At that time, we put the Upland Road Pump Station on our Capital Improvement Plan. It was in there last year and we bumped it to this year. Based on some other projects we had planned last year, we are basically asking for permission to install the same style station that we have done on three other occasions: Pinewoods Road, Summer Street, and

Madelyn Street. These stations are called suction lift stations, which puts all the equipment and everything above ground at waist level so that way there is no need to find space entries or any of that sort of work. We purchase these stations directly from the manufacturer's representative, but the purchase orders would be made out to the manufacturer. Smith and Loveless has the pump station that we settled on several years ago, and for the size of the station that we need the price is \$48,479 and we received installation costs not to exceed \$15,000 from Longchamps to put the new wet well in as well as install the new piping and set the station. They are the same contractor we use on every other occasion. It has worked very well for us and we are hoping to stick with that scenario. Then, Steven's Electric and Pump Service is the contractor that we use for all our routine emergency repair and maintenance work and electrical pump stuff and their price was \$5,010 to do the electrical installation, which includes a new service. This particular station sits down below the road as you are traveling towards Webster Road. It's only a few hundreds yards before Webster Road. You can't see it very well. Once this is all done it will be more recognizable. Basically, what we are asking for is to award the contract to Smith and Loveless, Inc., Longchamps, and Steven's Electric to get this work done. It's about five or six week lead time for the pump station. This work will probably happen sometime in July, which will fit into their schedules.

Councilor Larochelle said is this pretty much in the same spot as the old one. Mr. Leighton said what we have done in the past is that we save the old wet well and it serves as a grease trap for us. It catches a lot of the stuff that we don't want in the wet well and it's not as deep so it is easier for us to maintain on a monthly basis and then it, also, protects the pump. Basically, we continue with the flow going into the old wet well and then we put in a new pipe to the new wet well we install. It will be a bigger diameter wet well and will be a different depth. It will be within the same footprint in the area that is fenced in. We have to remove the fence to do all the work and we will have to do a lot of filling in around the new and old wet well due to the flood elevations out there. That whole area is going to look a lot different when it's done, because the whole road instead of driving down and around the pump station, you will come off the road and drop down a little bit, but will be a lot better access for our equipment, trucks, and whatnot. We usually end up hiring a pump truck for a day when we make the connections, because we have to have the pumps down for a time while we make the final connections to the force main. It won't interrupt the regular customers.

Councilor Lunt said do we have other stations that have to be upgraded in the future? Mr. Leighton said, yes, really the biggest problem that we have with our system right now is infiltration. We have sump pumps that are technically illegally hooked up, storm drains, foundation drains, and all that kind of stuff to deal with so when it really rains our flow goes from three quarters of a million gallons a day to upwards of three million. Then it takes days for that to go away. Jerry just commented in a recent memo about all the rain we got prior to April, which is finally getting through the system. If we were able to operate the system without the infiltration, then our pumps are sized properly and can handle it, because they do handle the flow even when it rains, but sometimes it barely handles it. Most of the pump stations are in very good condition now, but we haven't really addressed the whole 35 miles of sewer line we have. We have addressed some critical areas over the last four or five years, but there are some unknowns. I mean, we are only doing \$100,000 a year in capital improvements and that can only do like 300 feet of pipe. It's going to take us a long time. I would have to have Jerry speak to the specifics a little bit more. I am pretty comfortable with the state that we are at as long as we keep doing what we have been doing. I would hate to see us, at some point, just stop with our capital improvements, because it has been a slow steady effort, I think, from the time that I've been here and it's really been beneficial to us.

VOTE (2010-69) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to award the bid for the Pump Station Replacement on Upland Road to Smith and Loveless, Inc. for \$48,479, Longchamps and Sons, Inc. for \$15,000 and Steven's Electric and Pump Service, Inc. for \$5,010.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Order passed - Vote 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX DISCUSSION

Mr. Eldridge said this item was requested by Councilor Cote. In your report from me, I included a copy of the Assessing program, which includes all the real estate and personal property. They are running it parallel with the existing one that they are running on a regular basis. As all personal property lists come in we are entering that into the Assessing II software and it will not be part of our tax commitment unless everything is in proper shape. We will run tests on it once everything gets in and we will make sure that it is all depreciated correctly. We will send out copies to each of the businesses so they will have an idea; is this the correct list or is this not the correct list. We will make sure the numbers are correct in terms of what they said they purchased it at and the age and all that so they will have an idea prior to and I am not sure we will get to that or complete it this year, before passing that along. The only other thing we are putting into the other software is the updated list of existing businesses already on the books so we are trying to make this as transparent as possible.

Councilor Bowie said, basically, we are kind of slow rolling this. We are making sure that we have all the facts together and that its working correctly and that you have a visibility to everybody of what they are actually going to be before we actually roll it out. Mr. Eldridge said Pat has run some tests on some stuff that has already come in. The depreciation is such that on some of them the tax is pretty small. I want to wait until we get everything into the system and make sure it's entered correctly. We have three people entering data so mistakes could be made and we want to make sure we do it right. You will get a chance to see copies of the reports, look over the lists, and see how they turned out before the businesses receive it.

Councilor Larochelle said so pretty much how it's been going in the past you can continue on, but with the new process all it is, is that you will be able to review what the changes are before they go forth.

Councilor Lunt said I just want an estimate on what kind of figure this will bring in for money. Mr. Eldridge said I do not have any numbers. Mr. Lunt said I appreciate that, but if you could get a ballpark figure for me, you know, are we looking at \$25,000 or \$100,000. Mr. Eldridge said I know we have one customer that had never filed before. They had over \$100,000 worth of value, but we have not depreciated any of it yet. Mr. Lunt said I am just curious about what we would get for funds actually.

Councilor Bowie said, I think, that is the whole idea behind running the parallel database so that we can get all that information and then get that "true" number rather than get a ballpark figure and then work with that number and move forward.

Councilor Pomelow said, basically, how you are going to do this is that anybody who has already turned in their paperwork, the letters that were requested to be sent back, you are just going to input that information.

Councilor Bowie said all of the letters, the information that was sent out this year, and any of that new information that has come in, is going into this second data base and that will be tested, reviewed, analyzed and sent back out to the businesses to validate prior to any implementation. What will continue on is what's currently on the books and that's been happening for property tax all along.

Councilor Pomelow said so is there still going to be a period where the business owners can come and discuss this? Like, you are going to send out reports to the people, like bills I guess you could call them, to look at for validation and then the business owners can still come in and negotiate all of that, right? Councilor Bowie said, yes, that's the whole idea behind the review.

Mr. Eldridge said we will go through the same process when we do the list and measure of all the residential property. Councilor Pomelow said do you have an update on the land part of it. Mr. Eldridge said I know he is in the building quite often and out on the road doing that. He has obtained some real good data.

B. POLICY FOR DISPOSITION OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY

Mr. Eldridge said this policy was requested by Councilor Bowie to look at how we manage this. We did not have any policy on hand, which was something that Roger Therriault and I discussed when I first came here. Attorney Therriault frowned on it because it locked the Councilors' hands. Councilor Bowie has come back and said that we need to have something and this is what we had drafted. It's a procedure for us to follow if and when we have property that we have foreclosed upon and we have to do something with it, this is how we would handle it.

Council Bowie said this is, basically, for the Council to review and comment on. This, also, comes from our workings with the Water Department. Water Commissioners, also, asked to have some of this put into place to make sure it covers all of our indebtedness. We should read through this so that at a future meeting we can ask questions and go ahead and adopt it.

Councilor Pomelow said overall I thought it did look good. I did have a question about the "Solicitation of Limited Bids." Can you give me an example of where we would seek out limited bids? Mr. Eldridge said it may be a small parcel and the only party that might have a real interest in it might be an abutter. Councilor Pomelow said there is another section in here that speaks to that though, under "Abutter Sale." Mr. Eldridge said in many communities the public policy is that everything has to go out to public bid. With that kind of policy everything has to be bid out so you put it in the paper and you run an ad that it's being offered for sale, please bid, so I think that's what it is referring to giving the Council the authority to waive that if possible. It's just a method of disposal. Councilor Pomelow said when we come back to discuss this more if we could get a little more of an explanation on Section B and how it differs from Section E just to make it make more sense, it would be nice.

Dorothy Fitzgerald said is this on-line at the public website for the public to review? Councilor Bowie said, no, it is not. It's a policy for the Council to review and determine. It's just been presented to the Council so we haven't had a chance to review it. We will have future meetings on it with more detail and at those meetings we can make copies available for those discussions.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said I attended a really nice "Business After Hours" event that Floor Systems hosted. It came from the Mid-Coast Chamber and Androscoggin County Chamber. Mr. Veilleux spoke very highly of the Town of Lisbon and about working with us. There were well over 100 people there from throughout the region and from different Chambers and he was very gracious, which was nice to see. For the general public the Town Reports are in and you can come and get them. We will have that on-line as soon as possible. The bonds that were approved, the \$2.1 million, the bond attorney and Maine Bond Bank has asked us, and I have signed off on it, to put that bond into a Recovery Act. It gives us a much lower interest rate so we will do a little bit better on that. For the general public as well, there will be a Planning Board public hearing. We held one about a month ago at LCS. It had to do with the Well Head Protection Ordinance, and it's a follow up public hearing that will be held here at the Town Office on May 27 if anybody has any questions.

Mr. Eldridge said some of you received notification that Upland Road will be closing for water works projects, which will, hopefully, be done quickly. There will be a public hearing May 24 at the Lisbon Community School at 7:00 PM for those who may have an interest in discussing the contamination of wells and what is happening with that. Ryan Leighton and I will be there along

with my staff to answer any questions on that. Ken Wells said can someone be there from the State too. Mr. Eldridge said I will make sure somebody is there.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Richard Nadeau said I have a few things I would like to bring up. The cops should be commended for doing a great job, but summer is coming and there has been an area that hasn't been addressed and I don't think its ever been done since 1956, when Bud was the Police Chief in town. We need to be doing this, not just here but statewide. There should be a bicycle safety class for these kids, from 1st grade to 12th grade, with summer coming. He said there should be some kind of instruction or written test required for those that can ride, maybe a road test. You could close off an area around the High School during the day. You can't use the Lisbon Community School, because they can't bring their bicycles over there so maybe they would have to be taken down to the High School for some kind of road test. My big reason for this is that there are a number of kids I've gone by that go right through the stop sign. They say, well, why are you stopping there, we go right through it. I think that they have never heard about a stop sign. I think its time that we teach these kids bicycle safety.

Richard Nadeau said the other thing that I would like to see done in the future is to separate those children that go to the Sugg Middle School from the traffic in the parking lot behind the High School. Vehicles don't stop on a dime, especially when you get fresh ice and snow. We should have some kind of sidewalk or something over there eventually. Maybe you will have to cut into that field on the right hand side by the cafeteria or something where they practice baseball. Maybe that will have to be moved over so the busses can make the turn, but that's something else that should be done.

Richard Nadeau said another thing that might save us some money is that when we fill in potholes why not put a little sand over the top of it. That way the wheels on the vehicles will not pick up the tar and that could help stop that too.

Richard Nadeau said another thing that would be good, because I was looking for a job over at the Highway Department in Topsham, and I noticed on those two municipal complexes in Topsham that they have bicycle racks by both buildings near the entrance. Now, that would be good here, just something to help tie it up. I gave the last Town Manager some bolts for the thing here to fix it up. Now, I don't know what ever happened to that, that was years ago. It would be good to have one here. That's basically all I have tonight. Thanks.

Ken Wells, Water Commissioner, said I would like to remind people that we have a public meeting to talk about the Water Department bond tomorrow night at the Lisbon Community School starting at 7:00 PM.

Clyde Cavender said on Richard's first suggestion, there is a way to do it at no cost to the town. Make it a Boy Scout Eagle project that's done throughout the State, different boys do it all the time. You just need the space and the boy.

Roger Bickford said, basically, what I have to say is to Mr. Eldridge. I am very glad for what you did with the property tax thing. I think that was very good, especially after the last meeting, but there is one little problem we still have to address. I wish he were here. He doesn't have a very good personality at all. I think you probably ought to take him off and have a good talk about it, because I have been here a long time and I've had a business here a long time. I get a lot of older people in here and out of probably 100 people I talked to only one might be able to tolerate him. He is not a very good people person. Mr. Eldridge said he can be a bull in the china shop sometimes. Mr. Bickford said, well, I'm a bull in my china shop too. Mr. Eldridge said I will address that. Mr. Bickford said okay.

APPOINTMENTS - NONE**COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Cote said we are looking at different ways to raise funds as far as looking into personal property tax, we are looking to possibly raise taxes this year. I think that rather than concentrating on trying to raise more taxes I think we ought to be looking a little bit more seriously at what we are spending money on. We are spending a lot of money in this community that is not well accepted by the people of this community. I think that the Councilors better heed the warning that the people are not happy with the way that their budget is being spent. We have an opportunity right now to try to make things right and I think that our time would be better spent looking to save money rather than to raise money.

Dorothy Fitzgerald said here, here.

Councilor Larochelle said, again, I want to thank Steve for the personal property tax; I think as we move forward with that all the reassessment that it's going to be very important just to keep everybody involved and let everybody have a very open ended discussion on what's happening. I mean, it's all there for a reason and I think that everybody understands that as far as personal property that's been around forever and hopefully, Roger, it's not looked at as the idea of raising new revenue it's just the idea to continue on with what we have been doing in a more effective way. Hopefully, this new process will show them what they need to do and how to work their way into it if needed, but I think that same process, as you mentioned with it, comes the house evaluation, too, so it's going to be really important. Again, I do agree with Roger that you have to make sure that your costs are being confined, hopefully, those people will look over the town and see that in the last three years that we have actually been dropping our expenses in town every year. We haven't been raising what we have been spending, we have been dropping it, along with the school.

Councilor Larochelle said I am not really sure, but doesn't the Rec Department do a Bicycle Rodeo with the Police Department every year. I remember seeing that advertised. They give away a lot of free helmets. I'm not sure, and maybe it isn't quite as detailed as what the program Mr. Nadeau was talking about, but I know every year we always hear about the Bicycle Rodeo down at MTM. I always thought it was done by the Rec and Police Department, but it probably could be expanded a little bit and with the Boy Scouts that may be a great idea and then they could actually make a bigger program.

Councilor Bowie said I have one thing. We were scheduled to have a budget workshop on Thursday May 6, which I don't think we need to hold since we have a public hearing coming up on the 11th and probably we should have both public hearings under our belt before we go back to discussing what we want to do with the budget so I am looking for opinions from the Council.

Councilor Cote said I think we should have it and work on the budget, because we haven't really had an opportunity to get into where the real wasteful spending is that some of the Council would like to discuss. I would like to see us have that opportunity.

Councilor Crafts said I think that we should spend more time looking to try to find some more ways to save. We are looking at a tax increase and I think we ought to scrutinize the budget in anyway that we can. I certainly don't want another night out, but I think it's very important.

Councilor Pomelow said if we don't meet on Thursday night and we have the public hearing on the 11th and we don't meet again until the 18th that would only give us two other meetings to work on anything that had been recommended.

Mr. Eldridge said you could meet the 11th at the public hearing and then you could follow up on the 13th on Thursday directly after the public hearing, so you would have that meeting plus the 18th that would give you two more meetings.

Councilor Bowie said so I have two Councilors that think we should have it. Councilor Larochelle said I would be more than willing to attend this Thursday, I am available. Councilor Mason said that's fine. Councilor Bowie said, all right, we will schedule it for here at 7:00 PM.

Councilor Cote said I would like to ask one thing. When we have workshops where the Councilors get together and work, we have people sitting in the audience who are just chomping at the bit, and they would like to say something. Would it be possible to give them a few minutes at the end of our workshop to possibly come up with some really good ideas that we are missing, because we don't give them an opportunity to speak at our workshop.

Councilor Bowie said I thought that was what our public hearings were for and that's why we scheduled two of them. I mean, we had one public hearing and we didn't hear any of those comments from any of those people. Councilor Cote said there were only six people there besides town employees. Councilor Bowie said I can't help who comes to the public hearings. Some of those people are the same people who came to these meetings and our workshops and I didn't hear any additional opinions. I think that if Council is going to sit and have a workshop then Council needs to get through the hard issues and through that and we need to do that without any distraction. Not that they don't have potentially good ideas, but I think that's why we have our public hearings to address that. Councilor Cote said take some good notes. Councilor Mason said that's right.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (2010-70) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Mason moved at 7:40 PM to go into executive session per 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (c) Economic Development. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.** The Council Secretary was dismissed. The Council came back into regular session at 8:00 PM and adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2010-72) Councilor Crafts, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adjourn at 8:00 PM. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Twila D. Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM/MMC

These minutes were transcribed by Twila Lycette and proofed by Beth French.